

# Senior Tar Heel Legislature Report

By Victor Heinrich

The Senior Tar Heel Legislature (STHL) met June 26-27 in Raleigh. There was an excellent lineup of speakers, including:

- Karen Brinson Bell, Executive Director of the NC State Board of Elections, who presented information about voting in North Carolina
- Joyce Massey-Smith, Director of the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services, who spoke on current legislation and activity at the General Assembly as well as progress on the state's Aging Plan
- Bill Lamb, Executive Director with Friends of Residents in Long Term Care, who shared information about his group's efforts to increase the personal needs allowance for adult care home residents as well as other issues related to improving care in long-term care facilities
- Dr. Mary Anne Salmon with the UNC Center for Aging Research and Educational Program (CARES), who discussed the benefits of senior center participation for adults and the need for additional funding for senior centers across the state
- Rebecca Freeman, with the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services, who described in further detail the many benefits of senior centers, particularly with respect to combatting social isolation among older adults
- Dr. Ed Rosenberg, a sociology professor at Appalachian State University, who shared his thoughts about the field of aging and an aging population as well as his own impending retirement
- Misty Piekaar-McWilliams, JD, an attorney with the Division of Aging and Adult Services, who shared information about critical legal documents and terms.

Members of the STHL continue to advocate for its top five priorities: (1) increasing funding for North Carolina Home and Community Care Block Grant, (2) maintaining and increasing funding for senior centers, (3) increasing funding for Project CARE (Care-giver Alternatives for Running on Empty), (4) strengthening and funding North Carolina's Adult Protective Program (APS), and (5) improving staff-to-patient ratios in nursing homes.

Officers for the Senior Tar Heel Legislature serve two-year terms. Their terms come to an end this October, at which time elections will be held for new officers, including speaker, speaker pro-tempore, deputy speaker pro-tempore and secretary.

The North Carolina Senior Tar Heel Legislature promotes citizen involvement and advocacy concerning aging issues in the state by convening a forum modeled after the North Carolina General Assembly. For more

information please visit us on Facebook or our website at [ncsth.org](http://ncsth.org); contact your local county delegate, Victor E. Heinrich, at [veheinrich1@gmail.com](mailto:veheinrich1@gmail.com); or contact Eastern Carolina Council Area Agency on Aging Director David Rosado at 800-824-4648.

## This Month's Puzzle Solutions

P	U	C	E		O	P	A	L			U	S	E	S	
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2	8	3	7	4	9	1	6	5
5	9	6	8	3	1	7	2	4
4	1	7	5	2	6	9	3	8

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